

Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert the following as the first paragraph beneath the title on page 1:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No.09/930,334, filed August 15, 2001, which is a non-provisional of provisional of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/421,154, filed August 18, 2000, which in their entirety are herein incorporated by reference.

Please replace the abstract with the following rewritten abstract:

A pharmaceutical composition comprising as active ingredient (A) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:16 or a functionally equivalent variant of ~~said~~ the amino acid sequence; or (B) a polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide (A); or (C) an antibody which is immunoreactive with the polypeptide (A); or (D) an antisense oligonucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence complementary to that of polynucleotide (B); and the use of (A), (B), (C) and (D) in diagnostic and therapeutic applications.